

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

Claim Status

Claims 4-11 and 15-18 are pending in this application. Claims 4, 8, and 15 are amended.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §102(e)

Claims 4, 6-7, and 15-18 are rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as anticipated by Mori (USPN 5,982,994). Independent Claims 4 and 15 are amended to clearly distinguish over Mori.

Claim 4 is amended to recite “wherein designation of the at least one client or job for the paper supply means is completed before requesting the printing job”. This limitation is not disclosed or suggested by Mori.

Mori discloses that “the spooling controller 21-8 receives the control file from the client (PC or WS) and attaches the printing job header information, the name of the designated emulation, the name of the designated paper feed hopper, the instruction to print on both sides, etc., to the first 512 bytes of the spool information (printing data) stored in the hard disk 24 by reference to the content of the control file (Step 535)”. *See Mori: column 16, lines 12-19.* However, the receiving of the control file is conducted in response to the notification of which is transmitted to the client who sent the printing job completely after receiving the printing data (Step 533, Yes). According to Mori, the receiving of the control file, which includes the designation of the paper feed hopper, is completed when the notification is transmitted to notify the transmission completion of the printing data after completely receiving all of the printing data.

In contrast, the present invention discloses that the designation of client or job for the paper supplying means is completed before requesting the printing job as recited in amended independent Claim 4. In the present invention, the job or client is designated to the paper supplying means, wherein designation of the job and/or

client is operated by the user with pressing the designating unit 3 in the printer before requesting the printing job from the client to the printer.

When the designation operation is started by pressing the designating unit 3, the printer maintains the designation operation (the client or the job has been designated). During this designation operation, the exclusive control for the paper supplying means is conducted. In other words, if the client is designated for the paper supplying means during the designation period, the paper supplying means is used only for a printing job from the (first) client such that the paper supplying means is not used for another (second) client during this designation period. Also, if the job is designated for the paper supplying means, during the designation period, the paper supplying means is used only for a first printing job, wherein the paper supplying means is not used for a second printing job.

In the present invention, during the designation period, if there is any request for the printing job from another client or job, who or which is not designated, another paper supplying means can be used to complete the request from the non-designated client or job. Mori does not teach or suggest this feature of the present invention.

Since Mori does not disclose each and every element of amended independent Claim 4, it cannot anticipate that claim or claims dependent thereon. Applicant submits that independent Claim 4, as amended, is in allowable form.

Independent Claims 8 and 15, as amended, are allowable for at least the same reasons as discussed above with reference to Claim 4.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §103(a)

Claims 5 and 8-11 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as anticipated by Mori in view of Kurozasa (USPN 6,614,546). Independent Claim 8 is amended to clearly distinguish over Mori in view of Kurozasa.

Claim 8 is amended to recite “wherein designation of the at least one client or job for at least one of the plurality of paper supply means is completed before

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requesting the printing job". For reasons discussed above with reference to amended independent Claim 4, this limitation is not disclosed or suggested by Mori, and Kurozasa does not remedy the deficiencies of Mori.

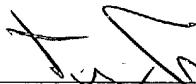
Since Mori, Kurozasa, or any combination thereof fail to disclose each and every element of amended independent Claim 8, it cannot anticipate that claim or claims dependent thereon. Applicant submits that independent Claim 8, as amended, is in allowable form.

Conclusion

This application is now believed to be in form for allowance. The examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to resolve any issues that remain after entry of this amendment. Any fees due with this response may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
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